

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2012  
CATHEDRAL PINES  
MIDDLE ISLAND, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Tony Trotta	Superintendent
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Pamela Greene	Director of Real Estate
Janet Longo	Land Management Specialist, Environment & Energy
Tom Young	County Attorney's Office

**PUBLIC PORTION**

There were not any members of the public present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2012**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE**

Janet Longo and Lauretta Fischer were present to answer questions pertaining to the acquisitions and provided maps for review of the exact locations.

Mud Creek Addition – Langman property, Town of Brookhaven, SCTM #0200-975.70-03.00-001.000

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Sickles. The acquisition was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**

Manorville County Greenbelt Addition – Pine Barrens CORE – Long Island Realty property, Town of Brookhaven, SCTM #0200-461.00-03.00-038.000.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee McKay and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The acquisition was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**

Hampton Hills County Nature Preserve Addition – Pine Barrens CORE – Grausso property, Town of Southampton, SCTM #0900-237.00-01.00-006.000.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Sickles and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The acquisition was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson commended the phenomenal job our firemen, FRES, police, DEC, EMS, forestry and state did working together to handle the recent wild fires in Manorville. The coordinated effort saved life and property. 1200 acres were destroyed and three-quarters of the land burned were at Robert Cushman Murphy County Park. The seven rentals on the land, five of which are occupied, thankfully were not damaged.

Commissioner Dawson requested that all invited to our monthly Board of Trustee meetings please respond in a timely manner whether or not they plan to attend the next meeting. We need to have the necessary number of members required to vote or the meeting must be cancelled.

Trustee Sickles expressed concern about whether there are plans in the works to organize follow-up meetings to find new and different ways to approach fires in the future, and whether the Parks Department will be involved. Commissioner Dawson stated that there will be long-term planning going forward and the appropriate people will most definitely be included at these meetings. There was discussion comparing the 1995 fire to this most recent one. Pros and cons were also discussed about controlled burns. The Commissioner added that there has been a ban placed on camp fires, candles, etc. at county parks and our Park Police will be strictly enforcing this ban. Trustee White asked if signs pertaining to the ban have been posted at the parks. Nick informed the committee there were signs posted at Sears Bellows, Southaven County Park and Brookhaven Lab. Commissioner Dawson stated that Smith Point has signage also.

Several legislative actions were taken at Wednesday's Parks Committee meeting. The Parks Department is in favor of Legislator Hahn's I.R.1339, Memorial Tree Planting Program. With very little cost to the Department other than the installation, Parks will have jurisdiction over the species of trees and location. The donator will be responsible for the maintenance. Parks will not be responsible for watering, vandalism, replacement or any warranties on trees. Commissioner Dawson commented that the program was a big success in the Town of Islip. Trustee Sickles inquired about how the memorials will be displayed and the Commissioner said that there will be one uniform brass plaque (no larger than 4" x 8") that will fit into a 1' x 1' footing in the ground. It will be easy to mow around them without need for weed whacking. The Parks Department will determine the criteria and appropriateness of wording that goes onto the plaques.

Commissioner Dawson updated on the Battle on the Bay powerboat races to be held at Smith Point. The event is supported by Legislator Browning. The Parks Department is not sponsoring the event which is to be held the weekend before Labor Day, August 24th & 25<sup>th</sup>. The organizers were asked for a \$12,000 bond up front to cover any cost that could be incurred by the Department. The bond will be returned as long as the county breaks even. Our mission is to provide recreational activities and opportunities to the public at a reasonable price, but we must protect our assets.

The race will take place in the ocean off of Smith Point and will not affect swimming. The boats will be staged in Smith Point parking lot and launched at the Smith Point marina just north of the bridge. Organizers have been informed that they cannot impede public use of the ramp. On Friday night, the boats will be taken to the village of Mastic Beach for a showing which is anticipated to generate some economic stimulus for the village. The boats will practice in the ocean on Saturday and the race will take place on Sunday. We expect it to generate revenue for the Department via parking fees. There are still pending permit requirements that need to be addressed before the event can be approved. Park Police and Maintenance will be spread thin as this event is the same week-end as the Long Island Maritime Seafood Festival. Mastic Beach and Mastic Fire Department are the event sponsors.

Commissioner Dawson reported that the Meschutt Beach drainage projects and paving at the east and west parking lots have been completed and look great. We had hoped to move the ten mobile camp sites lost in the west lot due to paving to an area along the bulkhead, however CEQ is resistant to this concept. Residents who reserved those sites have been offered sites at Sears Bellows or Smith Point for the same price. Trustee Sickles stated on behalf of the Town of Southampton that he is disappointed that CEQ put a stop to the ten camp sites. 5,000 cu. yards of dune re-nourishment took place before asphaltting was completed at Meschutt and the job was well done. DPW and Parks working together saved the county \$30,000 worth of truck rental equipment fees and they completed the job in just 5 days. Trustee Sickles commented that it looks great. There was also discussion about possibly charging walk-in entrance fees at beaches such as Sears Bellows, Meschutt, Cupsogue, and Smith Point.

Last weekend there was a renaming ceremony at Forsythe Meadows in Stony Brook for former Legislator Nora Bredes. Tony Trotta and Nick Gibbons' crews did a nice job setting up for the event.

Commissioner Dawson announced that he will reach out once again to Presiding Officer Lindsay's office to expedite getting Trustees for the Towns of Islip, Southold and Babylon. He sent a letter out about a month ago and hasn't heard back.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Borden stated that the Commissioner had already answered several of his questions pertaining to the Battle on the Bay and the recent fires. He brought with him the Newsday article pertaining to the Battle on the Bay for reference. He inquired regarding our golf attendance at the courses. Commissioner Dawson stated that the parking lot at West Sayville has been packed and Indian Island remained open through the mild winter and brought in approximately \$50,000 worth of revenue to the county. Those figures will be confirmed at the next meeting. This is outstanding news considering the fact that Chairman Borden advised nationwide there has been a decline in golfing.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee Sickles asked for consideration in having one of our Trustee meetings in the Town of Southampton. He suggested possibly having one at the picnic pavilion at Sears Bellows down by the lake, weather permitting. August was suggested, instead of having it at the Deepwells Estate. Trustee McKay inquired about the status of our seasonal hires this year. Commissioner Dawson reported that we are proceeding from Memorial Day to Columbus Day with the same amount of seasonals that we have had in the past. We took a 10% reduction in all of our budget lines, but for seasonals we absorbed the decrease in other areas.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2012 at the Meadow Croft Estate, Sayville, New York.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.**